

Members

Rep. Mary Kay Budak, Chairperson
Rep. William Crawford
Sen. Connie Lawson
Sen. Rose Ann Antich-Carr
Pam Leffers
Mary Jane Scamahorn
Kimberly Armstrong
Mark Young
Becky Dennis
Sharon Molargik
Ann Stefaniak
Tonette Murff
Bonnie Miller
Susan Tucker
Mara Snyder
Ronald Stiver
Melanie Brizzi

LSA Staff:

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COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 24, 2005
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 431
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Rep. Mary Kay Budak, Chairperson; Rep. William Crawford; Sen. Connie Lawson; Pam Leffers; Mary Jane Scamahorn; Kimberly Armstrong; Mark Young; Sharon Molargik; Ann Stefaniak; Bonnie Miller; Susan Tucker; Melanie Brizzi.

Members Absent: Sen. Rose Ann Antich-Carr; Becky Dennis; Tonette Murff; Mara Snyder; Ronald Stiver.

Rep. Budak called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Pre-kindergarten programs

Rep. Budak explained that Carole Stein was not able to attend the meeting to provide scheduled testimony, but had sent written testimony², which was read by Ms. Naughton. Ms. Leffers disagreed with a statement that pre-kindergarten programs must be separate from other early childhood programs, and expressed her belief that they may be provided

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

² Attachment 1.

in child care or Head Start programs. Ms. Molargik expressed her concern about the third statement of Ms. Stein's written testimony concerning Head Start programs. She discussed the effect of classroom teacher education on the learning environment. Ms. Scamahorn stated that pre-kindergarten can be done in other facilities, such as child care facilities, as evidenced in other states. Ms. Armstrong noted that kindergarten is not currently required in Indiana, and that addressing that issue may be desirable before pursuing pre-kindergarten. She also stated that child care should not be excluded as a location for pre-kindergarten programs.

Updates from October 18, 2005, meeting

Melanie Brizzi, Consultant, Division of Family Resources (DFR), Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), noted information available on the FSSA Internet site concerning the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) voucher program. She provided a handout concerning a market rate survey performed in May, 2005.³ She described the process for the determination of the CCDF rates which were effective October 1, 2005, and cited examples of rates for Marion County, noting the FSSA Internet site link from which information concerning rates for other counties may be accessed.

Ms. Brizzi provided a handout entitled "The Indiana Self Sufficiency Standard: What it is and Why it matters"⁴ concerning a living wage in Indiana, and noted the Internet cite from which the full report may be accessed. She also provided information concerning the 2005 HHS poverty guidelines and the eligibility determination and fee schedule for CCDF and the State School Age Child Care Project Fund.⁵ In response to a statement from Rep. Crawford, Ms. Brizzi acknowledged that the self sufficiency standards and the poverty guidelines used to determine CCDF eligibility do not correlate.

Ms. Brizzi also provided financial information related to the CCDF projected quality budget for fiscal year 2006,⁶ noting that 4% of CCDF funds are spent on quality projects.

Ms. Scamahorn stated that more stringently regulated child care providers may not attract as many children whose child care is paid by CCDF vouchers because their fees are higher than the CCDF reimbursement. Ms. Brizzi responded that it is possible that because child care providers that are subject to less stringent or no regulation typically charge lower fees, parents eligible for CCDF vouchers may more frequently choose those child care providers.

In response to a question from Ms. Armstrong concerning evaluations of current child care quality activities, Ms. Brizzi and Marsha Thompson, Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral, discussed evaluations that are currently being performed concerning the benefits/outcomes of current child care related programs. Ms. Thompson agreed to provide to the Committee information and data resulting from evaluation activities currently being performed. Ms. Miller requested the information for each service delivery area. Ms. Thompson agreed to present the information. Ms. Brizzi noted that

³ Attachment 2.

⁴ Attachment 3.

⁵ Attachment 4.

⁶ Attachment 5.

other states have performed scientific studies, and general information about the types of activities that improve child care quality is available, but not specific to Indiana. Ms. Leffers noted that program accountability for quality initiatives has increased over the past several years to provide more meaningful information.

Marline Breece, Treasurer, Board of Directors, Indiana Child Care Fund (ICCF), in response to a question raised at the October 18, 2005, meeting of the Committee, reported that the Indiana Kids First Trust Fund receives the funds from the sale of the Kids First license plates, and that the ICCF does not receive funds from that source.

Ms. Breece provided and presented an ICCF profit and loss statement for 2000, portions of ICCF's audited financial reports for 2001 through 2003, a report of 2005 ICCF income from sources other than FSSA, and a preliminary report concerning ICCF grants for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2005.⁷ In response to a question from Rep. Budak, Ms. Breece explained that: (1) ICCF grant programs are available for community based public/private partnerships that use local business resources and public funding; and (2) sustainability of proposed programs is a large consideration in determining whether to award a grant. She noted that funds that are not spent by grantees are returned to FSSA and that of \$2.6 million received from FSSA last year, less than \$500,000 is predicted to be returned. There was discussion concerning elements of grant program proposals and opportunities to participate in grant programs. In response to a request from the Committee, Ms. Breece agreed to provide to the Committee the types of information gathered annually to evaluate grant programs.

Other Testimony

Monica Boyer, Indiana Child Care Association, expressed her disagreement with remarks made at the October 18, 2005, meeting of the Committee advocating a single set of regulations for all child care providers. She stated that it would not be possible to apply a single set of regulations due to the differences between the types of child care providers and the environment that each type attempts to provide for children in their care. She advocated separate regulations for all types of child care providers.

Proposed Legislation

Rep. Budak noted Preliminary Draft (PD) 3374,⁸ amending the definition of "child care ministry" and, at the request of Rep. Budak, Ms. Naughton explained the content of the PD. There was committee discussion concerning problems identified by members with respect to child care ministries. Several members expressed their desire to require increased regulation of child care ministries. Rep. Crawford noted that more public support than has been evident in the past would be necessary to pass such legislation. After further discussion, the Committee adopted PD 3374 for introduction during the 2006 session of the General Assembly by a roll call vote of 10-2.

Rep. Budak noted a handout⁹ providing the results of her request at the October 18, 2005,

⁷Attachment 6.

⁸Attachment 7.

⁹Attachment 8.

meeting for interested parties and members to forward their views concerning the five regulations that they believe should apply to all child care providers. There was brief discussion concerning the results.

Final Report

At Rep. Budak's request, Ms. Naughton explained the content of the final report.¹⁰ Review and recommended revisions to the draft findings and recommendations were completed by the Committee and the final report was approved by the members by a roll call vote of 12-0.

There was additional discussion concerning basic standards that should apply to legally unlicensed providers. Rep. Crawford recommended that review of any general legal requirements concerning basic health and safety that would apply to all child care providers, including legally unlicensed child care providers, should occur during the 2006 interim. This recommendation was not included in the final report, however the members expressed agreement with the recommendation.

Other Business

Rep. Budak asked those present for any additional comments.

Tom Rayl, Indiana Association of Licensed Child Care Centers, expressed his dissatisfaction with the strict regulation of child care centers as opposed to other types of child care providers. He stated his view that FSSA should not recommend to parents other types of child care that are less strictly regulated as alternatives to licensed child care centers. He noted that his child care center costs are the same throughout the year regardless of how many children are enrolled. Mr. Rayl stated that 80% of other states require child care ministries to be licensed.

In response to Mr. Rayl's statements, Rep. Crawford explained that his focus in working to pass legislation in Indiana is the participation and will of the public and other legislators in Indiana. He stated his belief that public opinion concerning licensure of child care ministries in Indiana will need to change before it will be possible to pass legislation requiring licensure.

Maxine VanGilder, Indiana Association of Licensed Child Care Centers, remarked that a licensed child care center in her town recently registered as a child care ministry because continued licensure would have required increased tuition.

There was discussion concerning public opinion regarding licensure of child care ministries, inclusion of training regarding the particular needs of special education children in child care provider training, and availability of child care provider training within a reasonable distance, particularly in rural areas. Marsha Thompson and Ms. Brizzi agreed to look into reasons for a lack of availability of training in rural areas.

With no further business to discuss, Rep. Budak adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

¹⁰Attachment 9.

